

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action of March 23, 2005. This response is accompanied by a Petition and fee for a 3-month Extension of Time.

In the Office Action, Claims 27-30 and 34 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,269,946 to Goldhaber et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,566,046 to Lin et al.

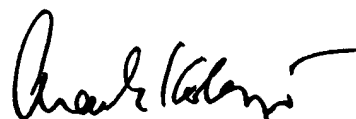
By this Amendment, Applicants have amended independent Claim 27 to recite a manual closed blood collection system comprising, among other things, an in-line filter to remove leukocytes from platelets separated from whole blood carried by the tubing of the system, and a by-pass branch extending around the filter. Applicants respectfully submit that, as amended, Claim 27 would not have been obvious in view of the art cited by the Examiner. Neither Goldhaber nor Lin discloses a blood collection system that includes the elements of Claim 27, as now amended. Lin neither shows nor suggests a filter and by-pass branch as presently recited. Goldhaber discloses a leukocyte reduction filter. However, it is positioned to remove leukocytes from red cells. The filter shown in Goldhaber is not located anywhere near the flow path for platelets (designated as PC in Fig. 5).

For these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the claim 27, as amended, would not have been obvious in view of the combination of Goldhaber et al. with Lin et al.

Reconsideration and allowance of the pending Claims 27-30 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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